Miss Wilson part of letter from Dublin May 23 1867

May 23

Mrs Peabody thanks Garrisons kind words of them who think with him in that they are most likely to be the wise ones — but that if Wendell Phillips and his allies think there is work to be done by them as a society very little harm can result from their trying to do what they can in their own way so long as they refrain from impugning the motives of those who agree with them. This I think they do, at least in public — for I see nothing of this kind in the Standard which I still take and am glad to see, as, except for it, & the letters I would be badly off for American news. Still it is lamentable that at this end of the Battle there should be a division between so few a band of men & women who have stood shoulder to shoulder so nobly & so long.

Now that you have left Paris by how the prospect had the inducement for me to attempt to journey there is gone. Though I look as well as most men of my years I am unable for much fatigue or for much walking, and the two Exhibitions have half the attraction for me that would lie in the power of them I wish to see. Still, if I had not been for a stupid cross old man I would have crossed to Liverpool to welcome Garrison on his arrival. I had a cordial letter from him by the preceding mail & he brought me a welcome one from Mrs Chapman rejoicing in the circumstances that attend his present visit

280

All that you say about the folly of the Fenians in running their heads against a stone wall is quite true. Still they represent the feelings of a millions of the poorer classes and if the Government have any of them they will make a great mistake. In my opinion England is not bound by any of the Irish Catholics who are not placeholders in fact or in expectancy. Nor do I think that the English sentiment of loyalty exists here. The English are an overbearing nation & have abused & ridiculed us so persistently through the times that I think a very general feeling is one of alienation. I am utterly destitute of any feeling of pride in British citizenship. Mrs Lee Richards in Nevada left us with very English preferences. In a late letter he sends an order on his bankers to give £10 to the relief of the families of Fenian prisoners. When I see how the North has behaved to their cruel, bloody Southern rebels I wonder that the English Government should be such boobs as to have any of their own aristocracy & their best to help the Protestant rebellion. Mrs Lee Richards & my partner & indeed the Chief manager of my business feels very warmly that most of the Fenians have been actuated by patriotic motives. He has written several letters to the Times, some of which I understand you have seen.

I have asked Mr Chapman to let me know of his movements - but have got no reply. He will probably stay a while in Paris & then come to England again for a short. I think Emma & Lee unchanged are

Ms. 4.9.2.32.70A

Ever & Yours affectionately Richd Webb